

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3024

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of glaucoma detection services under part B of the medicare program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2000

Mr. ROBB (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, and Mr. MOYNIHAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of glaucoma detection services under part B of the medicare program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Medicare Glaucoma
5 Detection Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF GLAUCOMA DETECTION** 7 **TESTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861 of the Social Secu-
9 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (s)(2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (S), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (B) in subparagraph (T), by inserting
4 “and” at the end; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following new
6 subparagraph:

7 “(U) glaucoma detection tests (as defined in
8 subsection (uu));”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 section:

11 “Glaucoma Detection Tests

12 “(uu) The term ‘glaucoma detection test’ means all
13 of the following conducted for the purpose of early detec-
14 tion of glaucoma:

15 “(1) A dilated eye examination with an intra-
16 ocular pressure measurement.

17 “(2) Direct ophthalmoscopy or slit-lamp bio-
18 microscopic examination.”.

19 (b) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY AND FREQUENCY.—
20 Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
21 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following
22 new subsection:

23 “(m) LIMITATION ON COVERAGE OF GLAUCOMA DE-
24TECTION TESTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
 2 provision of this part, with respect to expenses in-
 3 curred for glaucoma detection tests (as defined in
 4 section 1861(uu)), payment may be made only for
 5 glaucoma detection tests conducted—

6 “(A) for individuals described in paragraph
 7 (2); and

8 “(B) consistent with the frequency per-
 9 mitted under paragraph (3).

10 “(2) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFIT.—
 11 Individuals described in this paragraph are as fol-
 12 lows:

13 “(A) Individuals who are 60 years of age
 14 or older and who have a family history of glau-
 15 coma.

16 “(B) Other individuals who are at high
 17 risk (as determined by the Secretary) of devel-
 18 oping glaucoma.

19 “(3) FREQUENCY LIMIT.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
 21 graph (B), payment may not be made under
 22 this part for a glaucoma detection test per-
 23 formed for an individual within 23 months fol-
 24 lowing the month in which a glaucoma detection

1 test was performed under this part for the indi-
 2 vidual.

3 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may
 4 permit a glaucoma detection test to be covered
 5 on a more frequent basis than that provided
 6 under subparagraph (A) under such cir-
 7 cumstances as the Secretary determines to be
 8 appropriate.”.

9 (c) NO APPLICATION OF DEDUCTIBLE.—Section
 10 1833(b)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 11 1395l(b)(5)) is amended by inserting “or with respect to
 12 glaucoma detection tests (as defined in section 1861(uu))”
 13 after “1861(jj))”.

14 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1862(a)
 15 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)) is
 16 amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (H), by striking
 19 “and” at the end;

20 (B) in subparagraph (I), by striking the
 21 semicolon at the end and inserting “, and”; and

22 (C) by adding at the end the following new
 23 subparagraph:

24 “(J) in the case of glaucoma detection tests (as
 25 defined in section 1861(uu)), which are furnished to

1 an individual not described in paragraph (2) of sec-
2 tion 1834(m) or which are performed more fre-
3 quently than is covered under paragraph (3) of such
4 section;” and

5 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking “or (H)” and
6 inserting “(H), or (I)”.

7 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
8 this section apply to tests provided on or after January
9 1, 2001.

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